

# **TALON**

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## Word on the street...

"What are you most thankful for this holiday season?"



Emina Kovacevic Interpreter TRW

"Good health, peace and happiness."

**Tommy Williams** 

**Force Protection Officer** 

III

"The holidays bring people

together. It was nice for ITT

to have a chance to sit down

and enjoy a meal together."



Capt. Bill McClelland Deputy G-6 HHC, 28th Inf. Div.

"My wife, because she's able to handle the demands back home during the holiday season."



Luisa Topuola Safety and Security Manager AAFES

"I am thankful for my family and the freedom Americans enjoy."



Spc. Ryan Pysher Administrative Assistant HHC, 28th Inf. Div.

"I'm thankful I know my family is doing well back home. Also, I'm happy that I can share the holidays with my father."



Edis Siljegovic Technician Education Center

"I'm most thankful for the soldiers of MND(N) being here. It makes my existence better and safer. I hope it stays that way."

## "Be the change you want to see in the world."

~Mahatma Gandhi



About the covers: Front, Sgt. Jennifer Mock, computer specialist, 28th DISCOM, is serenaded by Jeff Davis of Drew Carey's improv show. Back, This year's Liberty Tree was officially lit outside the Eagle Base Chapel. The tree symbolizes diversity and tolerance of all religions. Photos taken by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster.



Friday, December 6, 2002

# Teamwork pays off for MEDCAP

Story and photos by Sgt. Max Romano

Cavalry Scout, 1st/104th Cav.

BUKVIK, Bosnia — SFOR and civilian municipalities have been working together to help provide and alert the public about the need for adequate medical and dental care to civilians and doctors throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina for some time through the Medical Civilian Action Program or MEDCAPs. Though still in its infancy, MEDCAPs have been a key component in SFOR's peacekeeping mission.

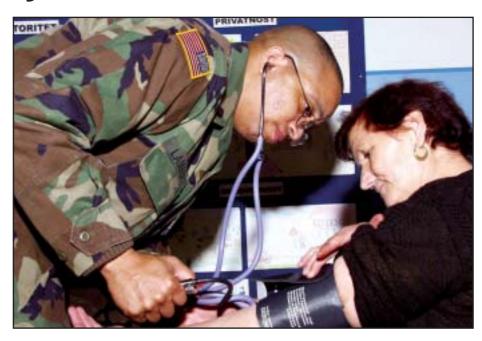
"Bosnia works within a socialist healthcare system. Although the people of this country health care they need, many of the people who need care are unemployed as the economy got wiped out by the war," said Maj. Ronald Whetstone, physician's assistant at Camp McGovern. "So, they may be unable to pay for the expensive medications required for their diabetic and kidney needs. What we do here is just good old human decency."

The Nov. 30 MEDCAP in the Bukvik No. 13 Elementary School was provided by American and Danish soldiers working in cooperation with two local healthcare providers – Dr. Jamir Salkanovic, and his nurse, Boja Stankovi. The event was coordinated by representatives of Task Force Saber Civil Affairs and Task Force Med Eagle personnel who worked diligently to get the local population out for the event.

The MEDCAP provided important medical services that many local civilian lack because of the inconsistency in healthcare in some parts. The assessments included blood pressure checks, electrocardiogram (EKG) evaluations, blood glucose level monitoring (diabetic problems), urine pro-



Maj. Ronald Whetstone, physician's assistant, 104th Cav., conducts an initial screening.



Spc. Joe Lambert, 104th Cav., checks blood pressure during the MEDCAP. High blood pressure was a common problem among those treated.

tein and dental checkups that included extractions.

Among the nearly 75 people that were evaluated and treated, there were high incidents of high blood pressure and many cases of arthritis of the neck and shoulders. In addition, cases of diabetes and blood and protein in urine were found. The latter is an indication of kidney problems, primarily Endemic Nephritis, which may be caused by contaminated water sources. This that is somewhat common in this country. The EKG results often demonstrated the prevalence of heart activity problems. Maj. Whetstone did not speculate on the cause of the problem because most of the assessed individuals evaluated were elderly.

Lt. Col. Robert Cater, dentist, Task Force Med Eagle, extracted a half dozen teeth. Traditional anesthesia helped make it less painful for those seeking care. These services are intended to supplement the current health care they already receive. The intention is to diagnose and treat problems before they get worse or life threatening. On location, SFOR medics educate the patients and give advice on how to take better care of themselves. The patients are also encouraged to talk to their doctors about future treatments.

"Early on, we found that people would come to us for evaluation, but they wouldn't talk to their doctors. Some felt uncomfortable seeing them or they would put it off long enough and forget about it," said Brankica Siwicki. "So, now we have evaluation sheets that we send to the doctors in town so that they can talk to their patients about the problems we found. We also do follow-ups for the high blood pressure and diabetes."

Siwiki is a civilian physician and interpreter for Task Force Med Eagle. She is also the resident expert having been through several MEDCAPs during the previous rotation. Siwiki has been volunteering from the start with SFOR 11 more nine months ago and has noticed an ever-increasing amount of people attending MEDCAPs during the past few months.

After everyone was finished being evaluated, medications were dispensed, primarily arthritis medicine, although general pain medicine was given out for various ailments by Capt. Chris Warczak, pharmacist, 5501st U.S. Army Hospital. Home kits were also handed out that included mostly personal hygiene items such as soap, basins, and cotton dressings for the civilians to help take care of themselves.

Lt. Col. Joseph Warren, chief nurse, is looking forward to next months' MEDCAP in the town of Modrica. Danish, Turkish, Russian, Swedish, and American medical personnel in conjunction with local medics are working together to make the next MEDCAP even more successful than this last humanitarian assistance event.

"Part of our mission is to work as a team," said Warren, underlining the importance of international cooperation.

Seeing SFOR soldiers working together as a team has a positive affect in the community as more civilians are seeking medical services through MEDCAPs. The civilians benefit through better healthcare and ultimately improved health.

#### **TALON**



Spc. Jessica Abner



Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster



Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

**Drew Carey and the** Improv All Stars took the stage at Peacekeepers Hall recently, performing their comedy act for soldiers of MND(N). The show modeled some of the acts performed on Carey's comedy show "Who's Line is it Anyway." Soldiers were asked to participate in the act as well. The comedy hour was filled with laughter as the crowd enjoyed the show.



Spc. Jessica Abner



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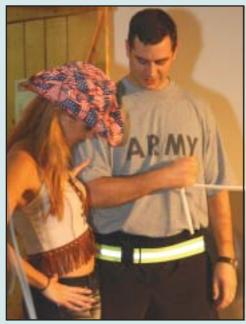


Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Eagle Base's Triggers was turned into a house of magic as Alakazam astounded soldiers of MND (N) with more than an hour of illusion and slight of hand trickery. After the show the trio of performers signed autographs and the magician's assistants even posed for a few pictures.

A few late comers were even given an up close and personal demonstration with a few card tricks.

The magic show is just one in a long variety of shows brought to MND (N) by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.



Spc. Jessica Abner



Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

# Quick response and a little luck saves MND (N) soldier's life

Story and photos by Maj. John Dowling

Commander, 354th MPAD

**OLOVO,** Bosnia —A recent vehicle accident involving U.S. soldiers from Eagle Base demonstrated the importance of teamwork, preparation and the competencies of citizen-soldiers serving in the peacekeeping mission here.

Spc. Crystal Young-Terrell and Capt. Greg Hall, both of the 28th Inf. Division Engineer Cell, were injured near the town of Olovo on Nov. 22, while driving back to Eagle Base after a mission.

A car attempting to pass a large truck hauling lumber moved into their lane on a restricted highway overlooking the town along the mountainous road between Sarajevo and Tuzla. Driving an SFOR sports utility vehicle, Young-Terrell took evasive action to avoid a collision, but was left with few options with an embankment to her right and a sheer unguarded cliff to the left. The accident left the SFOR vehicle in a twisted heap.

Hall suffered a broken collarbone and was able to exit the vehicle under his own power. Young-Terrell was not as fortunate. The collision pinned her legs inside the driver's compartment causing fractures to both legs and serious internal injuries. The accident was serious, but the results could have been catastrophic had it not been for a busload of fellow Task Force Eagle sol-



Capt. Paul Reo, Black Hawk pilot, 3-142<sup>nd</sup> Aviation, guides a 1159th air ambulance medevac onto a narrow strip of highway near Olovo to rescue injured soldiers.



Brown and Root firefighters and U.S. soldiers from Eagle Base rush to free Spc. Crystal Young-Terrell from a sports utility vehicle.

diers who were returning from a religious retreat and were some of the first responders on the scene.

TRW interpreter, Jasminko Konjic, jumped from the bus and made his way to the vehicle. Quickly recognizing the mangled SFOR vehicle, Konjic motioned to the others, who rapidly responded in accordance with their military training.

Some immediately secured the accident scene as anxious onlookers moved around to see the source of all the commotion. Others ran to aid the injured and began to assess the casualties and perform buddy aid. Several other soldiers pulled out their nineline medevac card to begin calling for an air ambulance medevac from Eagle Base.

Spc. Jim Harris, chaplain's assistant, 109<sup>th</sup> Inf., had just a few hours earlier delayed the bus' departure from Sarajevo by making a final sweep of the Butmir Soldier's Store looking for gifts. That delay could have meant the difference in Young-Terrell's life had the bus not been on the spot to help the accident victims. It was Harris, who also had dutifully lugged his combat lifesaver kit with him on the trip that provided much needed medical supplies to aid in the rescue effort.

In another fortunate coincidence, Capt. Paul Reo, Black Hawk pilot, 3-142nd Aviation, elected to remain on the bus rather than hitching a ride back to Eagle Base with other Task Force Talon soldiers who were hopping the daily shuttle back to Eagle Base. As a physician's assistant back home in Schenectady, N.Y., Reo is trained to save lives. His professional medical abilities were

critical in the emergency treatment of Young-Terrell and his experience as an aviator helped guide the air ambulance of the 1159<sup>th</sup> Medical Co. (Air Ambulance) onto a narrow clearing on the road to deliver critical rescue personnel.

Spc. Michael Vincent, flight medic, Sgt. Matt Stohrer, crew chief, and Brown and Root firefighters quickly went to work. The rescue workers used pneumatic equipment to free Young-Terrell from the vehicle. After her release, the medics safely secured her onto a gurney for transport back to the Task Force Med Eagle Hospital.

Upon arrival, the emergency room personnel went to work, stabilizing Young-Terrell and preparing her for lifesaving surgery. The operating room doctors repaired her lacerated liver and got her ready for another aircraft ride back to Germany.

Young-Terrell was airlifted to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center early the next morning where she underwent additional surgeries to repair the significant injuries to her legs. The 39-year-old driver has since moved on to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for additional treatment and continued rehabilitation.

According to TFME Command Sgt. Maj. CarlWise, Young-Terrell entered a 10-minute medical "zone" between life and death where even the smallest actions could have meant the difference between life and death.

Much was learned from the accident and it also reinforced what the soldier's already knew. Had it not been for their military training and a little luck, the results may not have been as encouraging.

# Religious retreat offers enlightenment

Story and photos by Maj. John Dowling

Commander, 354th MPAD

MEDUGORJE, Bosnia — Retreat is a term better off unused in the military vocabulary, at least if one if rooting for the home squad.

However, soldiers of Task Force Eagle "retreated" to religious sites here in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take time to recharge their batteries, deepen their individual faith and learn more about Balkan culture.

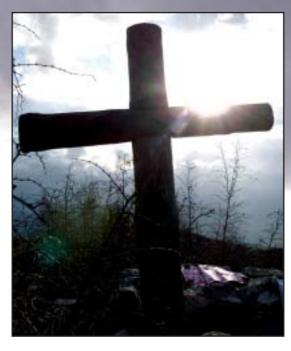
The highlight of the three-day trip organized by the Eagle Base Chaplain's Office, was a daylong pilgrimage to Medugorje, an often-visited religious site for Christians throughout the world.

It was in this quiet village on June 24, 1981, the Blessed Virgin Mary, appeared to six young parishioners in the village of Bijakovic. The events that transpired have drawn more than 15 million visitors seeking spiritual salvation and healing powers in the quiet town, which lies west of the city of Mostar near the coast of Croatia.

1st Lt. Eric Tallyen, HHC Executive Officer, 109th Inf., was well familiar with the history of Medugorje. Since 1995 his mother's family has made the pilgrimage several times. The family even established a relationship with one of the visionaries, Ivan Ivankovic. Ivankovic stayed at the Tallyen household several years ago while touring the U.S. to spread the word of his experience. Meeting the visionary has had a profound effect on Tallyen.

"It's not that he teaches you anything. It's just being around him,' he said. "He has an incredible presence and he's so goodhearted." Today, Ivankovic supports his family here in Bosnia, by telling people his story and spreading his Catholic religion. Interest in the visionaries remains high among many Christians as all six of the visionaries continue to experience monthly visions of the Mother of Jesus.

"The Lady comes in a vision



each month," according to Tallyen. Ivankovic experienced a vision while staying with his American hosts. The visions have spawned a series of websites for individuals from around the world to track the messages.

Part of the Medugorje experience is climbing the rocky mountain that overlooks the village and Church of St. Jacob. Everyday masses are held in several different languages such as English, French, Italian and Croatian that demonstrate the international appeal of the town. Tallyen hurried up the steep and winding trail to spend more time at the top with its panoramic view of the many vineyards that consume the plains surrounding the town.

"It's very beautiful," said Tallyen. "It was a peaceful experience."

The trek up the rocky mountain was peaceful for many of the American "pilgrims" who almost all accepted the challenge. However, for two soldiers the climb was as painful as it was peaceful.

Spc. Mike Palmquist, radiotelephone operator, 104th Long Range Surveillance Det., and Sgt. 1st Class Ray Sanchez, platoon sergeant, 142nd Military Intelligence Bn., chose to climb shoeless, a common choice for many who visit Medugorje.

Palmquist said his climb was a symbolic metaphor for his life.

"It's hard. The steps you take, you have to plan carefully where you're going," he said. Stopping to reflect at the Stations of the Cross that line the trail that depict Jesus' crucifixion provided motivation to keep moving up the hill and through this deployment with SFOR.

"Honestly? It was painful," said Sanchez. "I honestly felt when I got to the top, I'd have some relief and could put my boots back on. The only relief (Jesus) had was death."

Despite the soreness in his feet, the serene setting and symbolic white cross on the top of the mountain made it all worthwhile.

"It was spiritually uplifting," said Sanchez "When I hit the top I felt like I could really keep going without any shoes on."

The time away from Eagle Base provided the soldiers time to relax and refocus.

"It was very peaceful and relaxing," said Tallyen. "It helped break the monotony of all the paperwork and patrols that we face."

The group also spent one day touring Sarajevo and its various religious sites in the old part of town. Stops included the Gazi-Husrev Bey Mosque, a Jewish synagogue, a Roman Catholic Cathedral and Bosniac Institute — a comprehensive collection of artifacts and books documenting the culture, science, art and history of Bosnia.

Normally, places of worship are off limits for SFOR personnel so as to not show favoritism to any particular ethnic group, but these prearranged visits allowed soldiers a unique opportunity to learn about other religions that were part of the tensions that divided the country just a few years ago.

"I thought it was a great privilege for them to take time out the Ramadan holiday to allow us to tour the mosque," said Capt. Kristin Steinke, intelligence officer 401st Expeditionary Air Base Group, describing a visit of the mosque, the largest Islamic sacred building in this part of the world.

"The most significant part of the trip was seeing the city had such religious and cultural di-



A common practice of visitors to Medugorje is to make the climb shoeless.

versity and these people lived in peace for so long ... and now continue to live in peace."

The tour also included the Sarajevo War Tunnel, an 800-meter long, 1 to 1.5-meter high tunnel that was at one time the only lifeline for critical supplies to the people of the city of all ethnicities while it was under siege during the war.

Medugorje and all of the cultural sites help the soldiers maintain focus and learn more about the reasons for them being here before returning to the important responsibilities of peacekeeing.

